



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICIAL  
ARRESTED ON EXTORTION CHARGE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Manuel E. Mora and Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General Special Agent in Charge James E. Smith** announced that in El Paso this morning, an Immigration Enforcement Agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement was charged by criminal complaint with trying to extort \$20,000 from an immigration detainee at the El Paso Service Processing Center.

On Friday, federal agents arrested 42-year-old Santiago Efrain Valle after he accepted \$20,000 from undercover officers. Valle was wearing his duty uniform at the time of his arrest. According to court documents, Valle agreed to accept \$20,000 in exchange for dismissing pending immigration charges against and changing the risk classification of a detainee.

Upon conviction, Valle faces up to three years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

**A criminal complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

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